THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDAWAJ): (a) and (b) The Election Commission has formulated various proposals for electoral reforms which are under consideration of the Government. A statement of such proposals was laid on the Table of the House in reply to Starred Question No. 181 for 17th November, 1986 and Unstarred Question No. 91 for 27th July, 1987. These proposals also include the proposal for financing of all legitimate election expenses by the State.

Electoral reforms

583. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been demand from various sections of the Society that the Centre may initiate immediate Legislative action on electoral reforms to cleanse the politics of the pernicious influence of money power; and

(b) whether Government propose to make poll reforms in the country on these lines and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. There have been demands for curbing the role of money power in elections.

(b) The Election Commission has also proposed as part of its proposal for electoral reforms that to deal with the problem of money power, it is necessary to evolve a scheme under which the burden of all legitimate election expenses could be shifted to States The Commission has observed that the whole subject merits an in-depth study. This proposal alongwith other proposals for electoral reforms are intended to be discussed with political parties before arriving at a final decision. These discussions have not taken place.

Surrender of Hyderabad House New Delhi

584. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has since been taken by Government to surrender Hyderabad House, New Delhi to the Andhra Pradesh State Government; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons for delay and by when Hyderabad House is likely to be surrendered to Andhra Pradesh Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): No, Sir.

(b) Hyderabad House is utilised and required for purposes of Government hospitality and Government accordingly plan to acquire the property from the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Mid term Appraisal of Seventh Plan

585. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken the task for mid-term appraisal of the Seventh Plan;

(b) if so, whether the process has since been completed; and

(c) if not, by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The mid-term appraisal of the Seventh Five Year Plan is underway.

(c) The mid-term appraisal is likely to be completed this year.